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November 6, 2009

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *J. Fielding*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **PANDEMIC INFLUENZA H1N1 AND SEASONAL FLU PLANNING –
UPDATE #5**

This is a follow-up to the October 20, 2009 report to provide an update on the activities for pandemic H1N1 influenza (H1N1) and seasonal influenza conducted by the Department of Public Health (DPH).

H1N1 Vaccine

Overall, while the flow of H1N1 vaccine has increased, it remains far below what is needed for the target groups and to address the high demand in the community. To date, approximately 810,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine have been received or are on order for Los Angeles County. Of that amount, the majority, roughly 538,000 has been directed to private providers, and 272,000 directed to DPH activities. DPH has received some limited data as well as anecdotal information that indicates that H1N1 vaccine is being administered by private providers.

With respect to DPH activities, H1N1 clinics began on October 23, 2009. As of November 5, 2009, DPH has held 52 vaccine clinics throughout the County, at which 98,441 doses of H1N1 vaccine and 2,472 doses of seasonal flu vaccine have been administered.

DPH continues to function in an Incident Command Structure (ICS), running all H1N1 activities from the Department Operations Center (DOC), which serves as a command center for key personnel working on the H1N1 response.

Outreach

DPH continues to reach out to the media and the public to reinforce the messages of prevention and vaccine eligibility. In addition to continued education, DPH continues to reach out to school districts to encourage them to utilize DPH resources for school-based vaccination efforts and education.

H1N1 Activities at Community Health Centers

In addition to DPH vaccine clinics and private provider vaccination efforts, DPH has contracted with 12 Community Health Centers (CHCs) to provide the H1N1 vaccine in multiple clinic sites throughout the County. These CHC vaccination sites will provide an alternative to the DPH vaccine clinics for the uninsured in coming weeks and months.

Los Angeles County H1N1 Surveillance and Epidemiology

DPH has been conducting continued surveillance of influenza-like-illness (ILI) in Los Angeles County. The following are the results of this effort in recent weeks:

- In October 2009, there were seven severe pediatric flu cases.
- In October 2009, thirty-seven new ILI outbreaks (34 in elementary schools, 1 in a high school, 1 in a juvenile detention center, and 1 in a nursing home) were reported.
- The percent of emergency department visits due to ILI continues to increase and is substantially higher relative to the same time in previous years, especially in those 5-14 years old.
- All weekly indicators of respiratory illness are continuing to rise except for reports of Intensive Care Unit admissions and deaths.
- Most of the respiratory outbreaks in schools are due to unknown causes and have been small in size.
- Service Planning Areas 2 and 3 have the greatest number of reports of outbreaks and ILI signals from patients going to the emergency room.
- Since aggregate reporting began in the week of August 9, 2009, the rate of hospitalized cases due to *any* influenza has increased dramatically in the past several weeks.

Seasonal Influenza Planning

DPH has nearly exhausted its supply of seasonal flu vaccine, however additional seasonal flu vaccine may arrive in Los Angeles County as late December, 2009.

DPH will continue to keep you apprised as H1N1 planning and response activities progress. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

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PH:905:008-5

c: Chief Executive Officer
Acting County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors